

1914

c 1 Interpretation Act

Ontario

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REVISED STATUTES OF ONTARIO

1914.

SECTION I.

PRELIMINARY.

CHAPTER 1.

An Act respecting the Form and Interpretation of the Statutes.

HIS MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as *The Interpretation Act*. Short title.
7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 1.

2. The provisions of this Act shall extend and apply Application of Act. to every Act of this Legislature contained in these Revised Statutes or hereafter passed, except in so far as any such provision

(a) is inconsistent with the intent or object of such Act;
or,

(b) would give to any word, expression or clause of any Act an interpretation inconsistent with the context; or,

(c) is in any such Act declared not applicable thereto.
7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 6.

3. Where an Act contains an interpretation section or provision, the same shall be read and construed as subject Interpretation sections in other Acts. to the same exceptions as those contained in section 2.
8 Edw. VII. c. 33, s. 1.

Application to
the Act itself.

4. The provisions of this Act shall apply to the construction thereof and to the words and expressions used therein. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 11.

RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

Law always
speaking.

5. The law shall be considered as always speaking, and whenever any matter or thing is expressed in the present tense, the same is to be applied to the circumstances as they arise, so that effect may be given to each Act and every part thereof according to its true intent and meaning. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 1.

What may be
done under an
Act before date
of commence-
ment.

6. Where an Act is not to come into operation immediately on the passing thereof, and confers power to make any appointment, to make, grant, or issue any Order in Council, order, warrant, scheme, letters patent, rules, regulations or by-laws, to give notices, to prescribe forms or to do any other thing for the purposes of the Act, that power, unless the contrary intention appears, may be exercised at any time after the passing of the Act, so far as may be necessary or expedient for the purpose of bringing the Act into operation at the date of the commencement thereof, subject to this restriction that any instrument made under the power, unless the contrary intention appears in the Act, or the contrary is necessary for bringing the Act into operation, shall not come into operation until the Act comes into operation. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 43.

Meaning of
expressions
used in instru-
ments issued
under any Act.

7. Where any Act confers power to make, grant or issue any Order in Council, order, warrant, scheme, letters patent, rules, regulations or by-laws, expressions used therein, unless the contrary intention appears, shall have the same meaning as in the Act conferring the power. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 44.

Judicial
notice.

8. Every Act shall, unless by express provision it is declared to be a Private Act, be deemed to be a Public Act, and shall be judicially noticed by all Judges, Justices of the Peace, and others, without being specially pleaded. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 39.

Effect of
Preamble.

9. The preamble of an Act shall be deemed a part thereof and intended to assist in explaining the purport and object of the Act. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 40.

All Acts
remedial.

10. Every Act shall be deemed remedial, whether its immediate purport be to direct the doing of anything which this Legislature deems to be for the public good, or to prevent or punish the doing of anything which it deems to be contrary to the public good, and shall accordingly receive such fair,

large and liberal construction and interpretation as will best ensure the attainment of the object of the Act, and of the provision or enactment, according to the true intent, meaning and spirit thereof. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 41. Construction.

11. No Act shall affect the rights of His Majesty, His Heirs or Successors, unless it is expressly stated therein that His Majesty shall be bound thereby. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7. par. 53, *part*. The Crown.

12. No Act of the nature of a private Act shall affect the rights of any person, or body corporate, politic or collegiate, such only excepted as are therein mentioned or referred to. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 53, *part*. Private Acts.

REPEAL, AMENDMENT AND CONSOLIDATION.

13. Every Act shall be construed as reserving to this Legislature the power of repealing or amending it, and of revoking, restricting, or modifying any power, privilege or advantage thereby vested in or granted to any person or party, whenever the repeal, amendment, revocation, restriction, or modification is deemed by the Legislature to be required for the public good. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 45. Reservation of power to repeal or amend.

14. Where an Act is repealed or wherever any regulation is revoked, such repeal or revocation shall not, save as in this section otherwise provided, Repeal,—effect of.

- (a) revive any Act, enactment, regulation or thing not in force or existing at the time at which the revocation takes effect;
- (b) affect the previous operation of any Act, enactment, regulation or thing so repealed or revoked;
- (c) affect any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued, accruing or incurred under the Act, enactment, regulation or thing so repealed or revoked;
- (d) affect any offence committed against any Act, enactment, regulation or thing so repealed or revoked, or any penalty or forfeiture or punishment incurred in respect thereof;
- (e) affect any investigation, legal proceeding or remedy in respect of any such privilege, obligation, liability, penalty, forfeiture or punishment;

and any such investigation, legal proceeding or remedy may be instituted, continued or enforced, and any such penalty, forfeiture or punishment may be imposed as if the Act, enactment, regulation or thing had not been repealed or revoked. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 46.

When other provisions substituted.

15. If other provisions are substituted for those so repealed or revoked

- (a) all officers and persons acting under the Act, enactment, regulation or thing so repealed or revoked, shall continue to act as if appointed under the provisions so substituted until others are appointed in their stead;
- (b) all proceedings taken under the Act, enactment, regulation or thing so repealed or revoked, shall be taken up and continued under and in conformity with the provisions so substituted, so far as consistently may be;
- (c) in the recovery or enforcement of penalties and forfeitures incurred, and in the enforcement of rights existing or accruing under the Act, enactment, regulation or thing so repealed or revoked, or in any other proceeding in relation to matters which have happened before the repeal or revocation, the procedure established by the substituted provisions shall be followed so far as it can be adopted; and
- (d) if any penalty, forfeiture or punishment is reduced or mitigated by any of the provisions of the Act, enactment, regulation or thing whereby such other provisions are substituted, the penalty, forfeiture or punishment, if imposed or adjudged after such repeal or revocation, shall be reduced or mitigated accordingly. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 47.

Amendment, consolidation or revision.

16. Where any Act or enactment is repealed and other provisions are substituted by way of amendment, revision or consolidation

- (a) all regulations, orders, ordinances, rules and by-laws made under the repealed Act or enactment shall continue good and valid in so far as they are not inconsistent with the substituted Act or enactment until they are annulled and others made in their stead; and
- (b) any reference in any unrepealed Act, or in any rule, order or regulation made thereunder to such repealed Act or enactment, shall, as regards any subsequent transaction, matter or thing be held and construed to be a reference to the provisions of the substituted Act or enactment relating to the same subject matter, and if there is no provision in the substituted Act or enactment relating to the same subject matter, the repealed Act or enactment shall stand good, and be read and con-

strued as unrepealed in so far, and in so far only, as is necessary to support, maintain or give effect to such repealed Act or enactment, or such rule, order or regulation made thereunder. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 48.

17. The repeal of an Act or enactment shall not be deemed to be or to involve a declaration that such Act or enactment was, or was considered by the Legislature to have been, previously in force. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 49.

Repeal of Act not a declaration that Act was in force.

18. The repeal or amendment of any Act shall not be deemed to be or to involve any declaration as to the previous state of the law. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 50.

Repeal or amendment not a declaration of previous state of the law.

19. The amendment of any Act shall not be deemed to be or to involve a declaration that the law under such Act was, or was considered by the Legislature to have been, different from the law as it has become under such Act as so amended. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 51.

Amendment of Act not a declaration of different state of law.

20. The Legislature shall not, by re-enacting an Act or enactment, or by revising, consolidating or amending the same, be deemed to have adopted the construction which has by judicial decision or otherwise, been placed upon the language used in such Act or enactment or upon similar language. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 52.

Re-enactment, etc., not an adoption of judicial construction.

PROCLAMATIONS.

21. Where the Lieutenant-Governor is authorized to do any act by proclamation, such proclamation is to be understood to be a proclamation issued under an order of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council; but it shall not be necessary that it be mentioned in the proclamation that it is issued under such order. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 11.

Lieutenant-Governor acting by proclamation.

CROWN APPOINTMENTS.

22. Authority to the Lieutenant-Governor to make an appointment to any office, by commission or otherwise, shall be deemed authority to appoint during pleasure. See 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 30.

Tenure of office.

OATHS.

23.—(1) Where by an Act of this Legislature or by a rule of the Assembly, or by an order, regulation or commission made or issued by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council under a law authorizing him to require the taking of evidence under oath, an oath is authorized or directed to be made, taken or administered, the oath may be administered

Administration of oaths.

Certificate of
administration
of oaths.

and a certificate of its having been made, taken or administered may be given by anyone named in the Act, rule, order, regulation or commission, or by a Judge of any Court, a Notary Public, Justice of the Peace, or Commissioner for taking affidavits, having authority or jurisdiction in the place where the oath is administered. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 20.

Taking
declarations.

(2) Any officer authorized to administer an oath or take an affidavit may take any declaration authorized or required by an Act of this Legislature. 9 Edw. VII. c. 26, s. 4.

Authority of
justices.

(3) Every Justice of the Peace having authority in Ontario shall have the same powers to take and receive affidavits and affirmations as a Commissioner appointed under *The Commissioners for taking Affidavits Act*. 3-4 Geo. V. c. 18, s. 1 (3).

Authority
generally.

(4) In every case where an oath, affirmation or declaration is directed to be made before any person or officer, such person or officer shall have full power and authority to administer the same and to certify to its having been made. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 19, *part*.

IMPRISONMENT.

Imprisonment,
place of.

24. If in any Act any person is directed to be imprisoned or committed to prison, the imprisonment or committal shall, if no other place is mentioned or provided by law, be in or to the common gaol of the locality in which the order for the imprisonment is made, or if there be no common gaol there, then in or to that common gaol which is nearest to such locality. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 31.

Hard labour.

25. Where power to impose imprisonment is conferred by any Act it shall authorize the imposing of imprisonment with hard labour. 8 Edw. VII. c. 33, s. 1 (2), *part*.

OFFENCE UNDER MORE THAN ONE PROVISION.

Act constituting offence under more than one provision.

26. Where an act or omission constitutes an offence under two or more Acts, or an offence both under an Act and at common law, the offender shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be liable to be prosecuted and punished under either or any of those Acts or at common law, but shall not be liable to be punished twice for the same act or omission. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 10.

CORPORATIONS.

Effect of words constituting a corporation.

27. In every Act, unless the contrary intention appears, words making any association or number of persons a corporation or body politic and corporate shall

- (a) vest in such corporation power to sue and be sued, to contract and be contracted with by their corporate name, to have a common seal, to alter or change the same at their pleasure, to have perpetual succession, to acquire and hold personal property or moveables for the purpose for which the corporation is constituted, and to alienate the same at pleasure;
- (b) vest in a majority of the members of the corporation the power to bind the others by their acts; and
- (c) exempt individual members of the corporation from personal liability for its debts, obligations or acts if they do not contravene the provisions of the Act incorporating them; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 27.

IMPLIED PROVISIONS.

28. In every Act, unless the contrary intention appears, Implied provisions.
As to jurisdiction.

- (a) if anything is directed to be done by or before a Magistrate, or a Justice of the Peace, or other public functionary or officer, it shall be done by or before one whose jurisdiction or powers extend to the place where such thing is to be done;
- (b) wherever power is given to any person, officer or functionary to do or to enforce the doing of any act or thing, all such powers shall be understood to be also given as are necessary to enable such person, officer or functionary to do or enforce the doing of such act or thing; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 23, *part*. Implied powers.
- (c) where an act or thing is required to be done by more than two persons, a majority of them may do it; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 32. Acts to be done by more than two.
- (d) where forms are prescribed, deviations therefrom not affecting the substance or calculated to mislead, shall not vitiate them; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 35. Deviation from forms.
- (e) if a power is conferred or a duty imposed on the holder of any office as such, the power may be exercised and the duty shall be performed from time to time as occasion requires; Powers and duties to be exercised and performed from time to time.
- (f) if a power is conferred or a duty imposed on the holder of any office as such, the power may be exercised and the duty shall be performed by the holder for the time being thereof; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, pars. 33, 34. To be exercised and performed by holder of office for time being.

Power to make by-laws, etc., to confer power to alter.

- (g) if power is conferred to make by-laws, regulations, rules or orders, it shall include power to alter or revoke the same from time to time and make others; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 38.

Computation of time where time limited expires on a holiday.

- (h) if the time limited by any Act for any proceeding or for the doing of anything under its provisions, expires or falls upon a holiday, the time so limited shall extend to, and such thing may be done on the day next following which is not a holiday; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 18.

Number and gender.

- (i) words importing the singular number or the masculine gender only shall include more persons, parties or things of the same kind than one, and females as well as males and the converse; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 26.

Idem.

- (j) a word interpreted in the singular number shall have a corresponding meaning when used in the plural; 3-4 Geo. V. c. 18, s. 1 (1).

Words authorizing appointment include power to remove.

- (k) words authorizing the appointment of any public officer or functionary, or any deputy, shall include the power of removing him, reappointing him, or appointing another in his stead, from time to time in the discretion of the authority in whom the power of appointment is vested; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 28.

Directions to public officer to apply to his successors and deputy.

- (l) words directing or empowering a public officer or functionary to do any act or thing, or otherwise applying to him by his name of office, shall include his successors in such office and his or their lawful deputy; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 29.

References to sections by numbers.

- (m) where reference is made by number to two or more sections, subsections, paragraphs or clauses in any statute, the number first mentioned and the number last mentioned shall both be deemed to be included in the reference. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 42.

WORDS AND TERMS.

Words and terms.

29. In every Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

"Act"

- (a) "Act" shall include enactment.

"Affidavit."

- (b) "Affidavit" shall, in the case of persons allowed by law to affirm or declare instead of swearing, include affirmation and declaration; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 19, *part*.

- (c) "Appellate Division" shall mean the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

- (d) "Assembly" shall mean the Legislative Assembly "Assembly." of Ontario; 8 Edw. VII. c. 33, s. 1, (2), *part*.
- (e) "County" shall include two or more counties united "County." for purposes to which the Act relates; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 12.
- (f) "Divisional Court" shall mean a divisional court of "Divisional Court." the Appellate Division.
- (g) "Felony" shall mean any crime, which, before the "Felony." passing of *The Criminal Code, 1892*, of Canada, would have been a felony under the law of Canada; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 25, *part*.
- (h) "Great Seal" shall mean the Great Seal of Ontario; "Great Seal." 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 10, *part*.
- (i) "Herein" used in any section of an Act shall be "Herein." understood to relate to the whole Act and not to that section only; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 3.
- (j) "High Court Division" shall mean the High Court "High Court." Division of the Supreme Court. 3-4 Geo. V. c. 18, s. 1 (2).
- (k) "His Majesty," "Her Majesty," "The King," "His Majesty," "The Queen," or "The Crown," shall mean the etc." Sovereign of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas for the time being; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 5.
- (l) "Holiday" shall include Sunday, New Year's Day, "Holiday." Good Friday, Easter Monday, Christmas Day, the birthday or the day fixed by proclamation of the Governor-General for the celebration of the birthday of the reigning Sovereign, Victoria Day, Dominion Day, Labour Day, and any day appointed by proclamation of the Governor-General or the Lieutenant-Governor as a public holiday or for a general Fast or Thanksgiving; and whenever any other holiday falls on a Sunday, the day next following shall be in lieu thereof a holiday; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, pars. 16, 17.
- (m) "Justice of the Peace" shall include two or more "Justice of the Peace." Justices of the Peace or Magistrates assembled or acting together; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 23, *part*.
- (n) "Legally Qualified Medical Practitioner." "Duly "Legally qualified medical practitioner." Qualified Medical Practitioner," or any words importing legal recognition of any person as a medical practitioner or member of the medical profession, shall mean a person registered under *The Ontario Medical Act*; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, ^{Rev. Stat.} c. 161, par. 24.

- "Lieutenant-Governor" or "Governor." (o) "Lieutenant-Governor" shall mean the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, or the Chief Executive Officer or Administrator for the time being carrying on the government of Ontario, by whatever title he is designated; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 6.
- "Lieutenant-Governor in Council." (p) "Lieutenant-Governor in Council" shall mean the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, or person administering the government of Ontario for the time being, acting by and with the advice of the Executive Council of Ontario; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 7.
- "Lower Canada." (q) "Lower Canada" shall mean all that part of Canada which formerly constituted the Province of Lower Canada; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 9, *part*.
- "Magistrate." (r) "Magistrate" shall mean a Justice of the Peace, and shall include two or more Justices of the Peace or Magistrates assembled or acting together; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 23, *part*.
- "May." (s) "May" shall be construed as permissive; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 2, *part*.
- "Misdemeanour." (t) "Misdemeanour" shall mean any crime which before the passing of *The Criminal Code, 1892*, of Canada, would have been a misdemeanour under the law of Canada; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 25, *part*.
- "Month." (u) "Month" shall mean a calendar month; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 15, *part*.
- "Now." (v) "Now" and "Next" shall be construed as having reference to the time when the Act was presented for the Royal Assent; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 4.
- "Oath." (w) "Oath" shall, in the case of persons allowed by law to affirm or declare instead of swearing, include affirmation and declaration; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 19, *part*.
- "Person." (x) "Person" shall include any body corporate or politic, and the heirs, executors, administrators or other legal representatives of a person to whom the context can apply according to law; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 13.
- "Proclamation." (y) "Proclamation" shall mean a proclamation under the Great Seal; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 10, *part*.
- "Registrar." (z) "Registrar" shall include a deputy registrar; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 22.
- "Rules of Court." (aa) "Rules of Court" when used in relation to any Court shall mean rules made by the authority hav-

ing power to make rules or orders regulating the practice and procedure of such court, or for the purpose of any Act directing or authorizing anything to be done by rules of court; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, pars. 36, 37.

- (bb) "Security" shall mean sufficient security, and "Sureties" shall mean sufficient sureties, and where these words are used, one person shall be sufficient therefor unless otherwise expressly required; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 21. "Security."
- (cc) "Shall" shall be construed as imperative; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 2, *part*. "Shall."
- (dd) "Supreme Court" shall mean Supreme Court of Ontario; 8 Edw. VII. c. 33, s. 1 (2), *part*. "Supreme Court."
- (ee) "Swear" shall, in the case of persons for the time being allowed by law to affirm or declare instead of swearing, include affirm and declare; and "Sworn" shall have a corresponding meaning; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 19, *part*. "Swear,"
"Sworn."
- (ff) "United Kingdom" shall mean United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 8. "United Kingdom."
- (gg) "Upper Canada" shall mean all that part of Canada which formerly constituted the Province of Upper Canada; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 9, *part*. "Upper Canada."
- (hh) "Writing," "Written," or any term of like import, shall include words printed, painted, engraved, lithographed, photographed, or represented or reproduced by any other mode in a visible form; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 14. "Writing,"
"Written,"
- (ii) "Year" shall mean a calendar year; 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 7, par. 15, *part*. "Year."

SPECIAL INTERPRETATION CLAUSES.

30. The interpretation section of *The Judicature Act* shall extend to all Acts relating to legal matters. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 8. Interpretation
section of
Rev. Stat. c. 56.
extension of
application of.

31. The interpretation section of *The Municipal Act* shall extend to all Acts relating to municipal matters. 7 Edw. VII. c. 2, s. 9. Interpretation
section of
Rev. Stat.
c. 192.
application of.